



Participants from the Mombasa Department of Health in a training activity during an organizational restructuring workshop. Photo credit: USAID

## KENYA

### HEALTH POLICY PLUS

The overarching objective for Health Policy Plus (HP+) in Kenya is to contribute to increased, sustainable, predictable, and adequate financing for programs and health policy implementation. The objective contributes directly to Kenya's Vision 2030 and its 2018-2022 Medium Term Plan. The health sector in Kenya is faced with multiple financing challenges, including declining donor support, and increasing out-of-pocket expenditures that act as a barrier to access and contribute to catastrophic health expenditures.

The Kenya Health Financing Strategy was expected to address these challenges but has not been concluded – leaving the sector vulnerable to tackle emerging issues that require heavy investment, such as scaling up and sustaining antiretroviral treatment. Kenya's partner countries in East Africa face similar challenges, and the regional health secretariats lack sufficient data and tools to support them.

#### OUR WORK

HP+ Kenya and East Africa focuses on three objectives:

- Support the national government to increase domestic resources for sustainable financing of the health sector in Kenya.
- Support county governments to increase sustainable financing for health and priority programs.
- Support Eastern Africa member states to promote health insurance coverage.

HP+'s global strategy, frameworks, and guidelines for the key cross-cutting issues of gender equality, equity and human rights, capacity development, and sustainability are incorporated into the program.

Its goal and all activities directly address sustainability, and each component includes specific capacity development strategies and activities. HP+ supports Kenya's self-reliance, helping national and county governments to continually review and increase funding to health and priority programs.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

HP+ has achieved the following successes in the last five years:

- The National Treasury created a budget line item for antiretrovirals and allocated a total of \$139 million for antiretrovirals over the last five fiscal years.
- 590 county staff have been trained in 26 counties on program-based budgeting.
- Allocations to health in the 26 counties increased from 24 percent of total county government budget in FY 2015/16 to 27 percent in FY 2019/20.
- Budget absorption in seven deep-dive counties supported by HP+ increased from 73 percent in 2016/17 to 84 percent in 2018/19, following intensive capacity strengthening support.
- A draft private sector engagement framework to increase antiretroviral uptake through the private sector has been developed.

HP+ has also contributed to policy, legal, financial, and regulatory systems for sustainable financing by:

- developing a nationally endorsed template and a curriculum for program-based budgeting for the health sector, in collaboration with national partners.
- providing tools, skills, and knowledge to over 590 health planning and budgeting professionals in 26 counties to generate and use evidence for advocacy and decision-making to improve budgets and health outcomes.
- offering continued mentoring in 26 counties and undertaking new evidence generation in six counties (“deep dive”) to address specific health indicators by increasing efficiency in their health systems.
- generating significant evidence for national-level advocacy to improve resource allocation and efficient application of the resources.

**BUDGET:** USD \$17.5 million

### DURATION

2015-2022

### ACTIVITY LOCATION

Across Kenya's 47 counties

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Palladium

### KEY PARTNERS

Ministry of Health, Council of Governors, Kenya School of Government, private sector, University of Nairobi - Economics Department, Ministry of Planning and Devolution, National Treasury, National AIDS Control Council, National AIDS and STI Control Program

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